



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT APPLICATION EXAMINING OPERATIONS

3a  
2783  
9-5-00

Applicant: Brian DONOVAN

Group Art Unit: 2783

Serial N<sup>o</sup>: 09/410,202

Examiner:

Filed: Sept. 30, 1999

Title: ZERO OVERHEAD COMPUTER  
INTERRUPTS WITH TASK SWITCHING

RECEIVED  
SEP - 1 2000  
TC 2700 MAIL ROOM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

09/05/2000 VJONEGE 00000000 031350 09410202  
01 FC:10E 70.00 BR

1600 ODS Tower  
601 SW Second Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-3157  
August 21, 2000

Assistant Commissioner  
of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims.

4. In a data processing system, an interrupt and task change processing circuit comprising:
- (a) a task enable circuit for determining from predetermined inputs whether a predetermined task is ready for execution by a central processing unit,
  - (b) a task priority selection circuit for determining an order for the running of tasks that have been determined ready for execution by the task enable circuit; and